Islands in the Stream Expedition 2001 Field Season

Dive Summary

Cocoa Beach [JSL] 9/3/2001

Oculina Habitat Area of Particular Concern, Islands in the Stream

Overview of Dive Clelia-617 at Cocoa Beach [JSL]

Benhur Chiong piloted this dive at the site known as Cocoa Beach [JSL] (28.27714 / -79.99816) on 9/3/2001 starting at 17:00:00. Total dive time was 2:56:02 and the maximum depth reached was 270 feet. Scientific observers were Grant Gilmore and Paul Orlando. (All times EST)

Dive Objectives. Objectives accomplished during the dive include:

Exploration/Recor

Fish Assessment

Benthic Assessment

Transect(s)

Ground Truthing

Filming

Data Collected. Types of data collected during the dive include:

CTD/Data Sonde

Tracking		
Digital Video Tapes	1	

Living Marine Resources Abundance

few 2-10; many 11 - 100; abundant >100

Pelagic Fish	Few	Other Benthio
Bottom Fish	Many	
Crustacean	Few	
Mollusk	Few	
Echinoderm	Many	

Observations and Comments on Living Marine Resources:

most abundant fish were single Serranus phoebe scattered over the bottom

General Comments

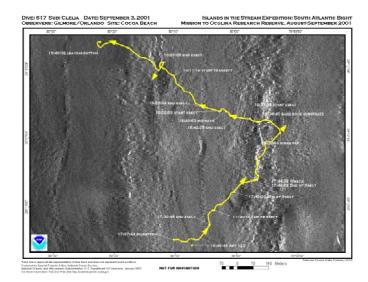
remarkable number of species and number of individuals for open bottom in scattered small rocks/ledges.



Prepared by : National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration 9/4/2001

Dive Track Description

Dive started on a sand bottom with rolling hillocks. Some hills had small rocks with gorgonian and sponges. Rolling terrain resembled terrestrial sand dunes. On east heading with southern current sub drifted NE over rolling hills to a wreck site - schooner or ketch-single mast with large tanks. This was a sandy site. The transect continued east to a series of ridges - the largest top at 200' base at 260'. Had oculina rubble on its northern face - no oculina rubble or s. face - no living oculina anywhere. only small heads of oculina were on mast and tank of wreck. One or two on sand mounds. Remainder of dive track was to the wes-tnorth west over rolling hills and rock mounds, gradually entering an open sand bottom. There were no living heads of oculina anywhere and considerable rubble in places. Relief of features observed during the dive ranged from to meters.



Observed Human Activities

None Observed.

Single

Observed Human Impacts

Wrecks founding vessel wreck

Overall Dive Site Ratings

1 = low; 10 = high

Uniqueness	1	
Health	?	
Disturbance	?	
Biodiversity	1	

Observed Fish Abundance

few 2-10; many 11 - 100; abundant >100

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Chaetodon aya	Many
Chaetodon ocellatus	Few
Chaetodon sedentarius	Many
Chromis enchrysurus	Few
Epinephelus niveatus	Single
Holancthus bermudensis	Few
Holanthias martinicensis	Many
Mycteroperca microlepis	Single
Mycteroperca phenax	Few
Ogcocephalus sp.	Few
Plectrypops retrospinus	Single
Pristigenys alta	Many
Seriola dumerili	Single
Seriola rivoliana	Single
Serranus phoebe	Abunda
Callionymidae	Few